

St. Mary School
518 N. H Street
Aberdeen, WA 98520

Sept. 16th, 2013

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Modernizing the E-Rate Program for Schools and Libraries, WC Docket 13-184

Dear Ms. Dortch,

We are a small private school located in Aberdeen, Washington. We are in an economically depressed area. Funding for our school is primarily through personal tuition and fundraising. We find that each year gets harder to maintain the school's needs. We need all the help we can get through programs like the E-Rate Program.

We try to maintain a digital learning environment and keep up with educational technology growth within our school. We encourage you to help make this possibly.

This letter offers comments related to the FCC's effort to modernize the E-rate program.

We believe:

- Universal access to broadband is necessary to meet school reform and improvement goals. These goals include the development of K-12 programming able to prepare all students for college and 21st century careers.
- The demand for access to broadband is growing rapidly beyond the ability of schools to provide it, despite the cost advantage possible through the E-rate discount.
- A modernized E-rate program must be less burdensome for schools, and aligned more effectively to current and future K-12 education priorities. There is also a growing need to help schools plan and budget for technology.
- Today's demand for the cost benefit of the E-rate program exceeds available funding. Clearly, the amount of money available for schools must increase to meet state and local needs.

We agree that it is time to modernize the E-rate program and support positive change that benefits K-12 schools. We encourage you to move quickly as you complete your deliberations.

If you have any further questions about our district, please do not hesitate to contact me at (360) 532-1230 ext. #103.

Sincerely,

Jennalee Cook
Technology Director